

## USDA Removes California Peach Fruit Fly Quarantine

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS) and the California Department of Food and Agriculture (CDFA) have declared Fresno and Madera counties in California free of the peach fruit fly, *Bactrocera zonata*, and removed established quarantines in both counties on July 28.

Agriculture officials established the quarantines on May 24 after six adult flies were detected from May 15 through May 20. The quarantine covered the detection sites and a buffer zone extending approximately 4.5 miles in each direction. During the quarantine, host crops of the pest were not allowed out of the area unless they were treated or processed as authorized. In addition, residents and people moving through the area also were asked not to move backyard fruits out of the quarantine zone.

To eradicate the pest, CDFA officials treated a 25-square-mile area surrounding the detections with a male annihilation treatment using a strong attractant, Methyl Eugenol, mixed with the pesticide dibrom applied to telephone poles and tree trunks to attract and kill the pests. Additionally, a foliar bait spray was applied to the immediate vicinity of adult detections. The quarantine ended after weeks of intense trapping to ensure that the infestation had been eradicated.

The peach fruit fly is native to several regions of Asia. Crop damage occurs when an adult female fly lays eggs in fruits and vegetables, with the resulting larvae tunneling through the produce and making it unfit for consumption. For more information on the peach fruit eradication, contact the APHIS state plant health director at (916) 930-5500.

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